

SPRING 2016

# Grace News

In Partnership

with INEZA FOUNDATION



## On the Ground in Rwanda

### *Sincere Gratitude*

We would like to thank our individual donors, sponsors, volunteers and especially our leadership team for establishing Grace Rwanda Society's presence within Rwanda.

A month and half have passed since Grace Rwanda's team arrived in Rwanda. Paul and Elizabeth Johnson have begun their journey as full-time Grace Rwanda and Ineza Foundation servants.

During the first month, the team's task was to clear Rwandan Customs of a shipped container loaded with books, dictionaries, sewing machines and jerseys for Grace Rwanda and Ineza projects. Within the container were also personal items belonging to the relocated Grace Team to set up life and an office in Rwanda.

Dealing with customs was challenging and exceeded the expected customs duties expenses, but the team managed to get all items cleared by February 15, 2016.



Rotary Dictionaries

### Unloading the container for Customs inspection

### The 40-foot Container Arrived Safely in Rwanda

Crew unloaded by hand

Thanks Jeff Morfitt

Container stored on site





The team revisited Rwinkwavu School, where Grace Rwanda donors built a kitchen that is still feeding 1,500 children. Two more cows have since been born, and there are now six at the school supplying milk.

## International Mother Language Day

On February 15 and 16, the Ministry of Sport and Culture and Rwanda Academy of Language and Culture hosted a two-day International Literacy and Culture Exposition at Amahoro Stadium for International Mother Language Day. Grace Rwanda and Ineza Foundation were invited to participate in promoting reading culture among youth.

Over 240 children from six schools in Kigali were invited to take part in this event. Grace Rwanda and Ineza Foundation along with other partners including publishers and local artists entertained children and youth through reading, story telling, cultural artifacts and competitions. Winners received prizes such as Rotary dictionaries, reading books, and school supplies donated by Grace Rwanda and Ineza.



## Minister of Sport and Culture

The Minister of Sport and Culture visited our booth and praised the work we are doing in promoting literacy. The purpose of this public event was to publicize the launch of our new Youth Center Libraries scheduled to open March 31, 2016.

On January 29, 2016, the Grace Rwanda and Ineza team was invited by Kimisagara Youth Center to participate in the closing of Christmas school break, an event sponsored by Imbutu Foundation. Grace Rwanda and Ineza donated dictionaries for prizes and four sets of soccer jerseys to the winning teams. The event began with a two kilometre walk followed by a youth fashion show, sport demonstrations of skating, karate, acrobatic, and other performing arts. This event truly demonstrated the importance of Kimisagara Youth Center to the low- and middle-income communities in Kigali. Our new Youth Center library will play a major part in providing reading resources for over 300 children each day from the surroundings of Kimisagara neighborhood.



Minister of Sport & Culture visiting GR Booth



Kimisagara Youth Walk



Kimisagara Youth Fashion Show



Kimisagara Youth Receiving GR Donated Jerseys



Winning Team Celebration with GR Jerseys

## Increased Partnership and Collaboration

The team met with the Canadian Consulate to introduce the Literacy work of Grace Rwanda and Ineza Foundation, and to follow up on Canadian funding for local initiatives.



Meetings with several local authors also proved interesting: Grace Rwanda/ Ineza met a gentleman over 80-years-old, who had published several titles that will be added to the next Youth Center Libraries.

The team is currently meeting with potential partners exploring collaboration and sharing resources for current literacy programs and other future program expansion.

## Humble Beginnings: Our First Office in Rwanda

### Renovating Current Building



**Joseph is our new guard. He graduated high school but had no job. In the past, he worked as a mason's laborer making \$5/day. We're creating jobs for Rwandans.**

**Our first goal is to set up an office, storage, and location for sorting books with minimal monthly expenses.**

We've spent six years of operations without a permanent presence in Rwanda. But now, Grace Rwanda and sister organization Ineza Foundation are opening an office in Ruhango Cell, Gisozi sector in Gasabo District. This is where the Social Enterprise Eco-Lodge project will be built for the future potential sustainable development of Grace Rwanda and Ineza Foundation's charitable work within Rwanda.

The office is in a temporary building on the site. We hope to start building permanent buildings in the near future. The current building will be used as Grace Rwanda and Ineza office address, a location to store books, and working station for the team.

## Next Steps

Our third major library at Kimisagara Youth Center will be launched this spring on March 31. The team is currently sorting shipped books, dictionaries and soccer jerseys, and purchasing locally published books in preparation for our exciting new library launch.



**Kimisagara Youth Walk**

Kimisagara Youth Centre serves children and youth in the surroundings of the capital city of Kigali. The area has a varied demographic, with children and youth from a variety of different social and economic backgrounds. A library at this center will benefit children and youth from low- to medium- income families. The center currently serves over 300 children and youth after school each day from this overpopulated neighborhood.

The purpose of the Youth Center Library is to improve youth literacy by providing up-to-date newspapers, magazines, journals, periodicals, hard copies and e-books. It promotes a reading culture; it strengthens a reading environment and enhances civic and democratic participation for youth. Literacy will supplement current youth programs such as sport activities, information about reproductive health, HIV, STI, drug abuse, and training for entrepreneurs.

**Kimisagara Youth Roller Skating**



The Kimisagara Youth Center is the model Youth Center, and it serves more youth due to higher volume of population in Kigali city. For example, a youth walk includes Taxi motor bikers, who also use the center for various training programs. This library will serve more people including parents, as there is no other library in these neighborhoods.



**Kimisagara Youth are vulnerable as they can be easily influenced by the city lifestyle. The new library will serve a diverse audience.**



**Kimisagara Youth Center community is surrounded home to low-income families.**

# Thank You For Your Continuous Support



We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of our dedicated individual donors, our generous corporate donors and all of our valuable volunteers. Your contribution is changing lives in Rwanda.

Your donations will go directly to support the launch of next 16 planned Youth Center Libraries. Please join us in reaching our goal of promoting literacy in Rwanda.

“One book at a Time”

## Contact Us

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Online: [www.gracerwanda.org/donate](http://www.gracerwanda.org/donate)

By Mail: Send cheques to above address.

Tax Receipts issued for donations over \$25.

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